

DRAFT

May 21, 2010

Dear Dan Basta,

The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) Advisory Council would like to thank you for attending our March 19, 2010 SAC meeting. We appreciate your interest and support on the issues and topics the CINMS staff and Advisory Council are working on. We would like to take this opportunity to follow up on the topic of acoustics which we discussed in some length at the March SAC meeting. **Enclosed is a resolution asking for increased investment of financial resources to support the acoustic work at CINMS.**

The first step towards proactive management is to better understand the changes occurring in our oceans and how these changes are affecting marine life. As you well know, the CINMS is one of two National Marine Sanctuary sites where initial acoustic research has been carried out. This work has set a foundation to better understand how anthropogenic sources such as commercial shipping in the Santa Barbara Channel affect large cetaceans in and around the Sanctuary.

At the March SAC meeting we were informed that a partner involved in acoustic monitoring had to remove equipment from the Sanctuary. This loss highlighted the need for new financial investment to help the CINMS improve its ability to carry out acoustic monitoring and become more self sufficient. Additionally, financial resources for acoustic monitoring can be used to build on work already done by CINMS staff and partners like the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Developing a self sufficient acoustic program at the CINMS presents an opportunity for the Sanctuary to become a leader in understanding changes in the ocean's acoustic environment and how these changes affect the important marine life found not only in our Sanctuaries but also in oceans all over the world.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.